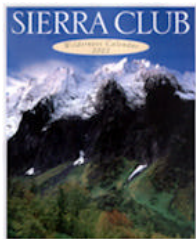


# Orange- Chatham Group

www.sierraclub-nc.org/ocg



## 2002 Calendars Left!

There are a few calendars left and after Feb 1, you can purchase one for \$5. Contact Pam Hemminger at (919) 942-2273. Calendars are the OCG's largest fundraiser.

**2002 ExCom Election** The ballot for the ExCom elections is on the back page. This year, you can vote on-line at [www.sierraclub-nc.org/ocg/Vote.html](http://www.sierraclub-nc.org/ocg/Vote.html).

FEBRUARY 2002



## Reduce the Risk! Nuclear Terrorism

The OCG joined other Triangle groups in endorsing the following resolution against the growing potential for nuclear terrorism as a result of plans by CP&L to store highly reactive nuclear waste in storage pools at the Shearon Harris Nuclear Plant.

*"Dry versus wet storage is analogous to a hand grenade versus an atomic bomb. You want to keep them both safe, but if you have a problem, there's a great difference in the size of that problem."* -

David Lochbaum — Union of Concerned Scientists

**Whereas** known associates of Osama bin Laden have identified U.S. power plants as primary targets, and have made several overt threats of attacks on nuclear plants since 1993,

**Whereas** for several years, a U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission security assessment program has found nuclear power plants to be highly vulnerable to ground-level terrorist attacks,

**Whereas** the NRC admits that reactor containment buildings were not designed to withstand airliner crashes such as those at the World Trade Center and the Pentagon,

**Whereas** cooling pools for used fuel rods (high-level nuclear waste), used at many U.S. plants including CP&L's, are more vulnerable than reactor buildings and could release far more radioactivity than a reactor if attacked,

**Whereas** a truck bomb, jetliner or other weapons could destroy enough vital equipment outside the reactor and waste buildings to cause a reactor meltdown and uncontrollable waste pool fire,

**Whereas** CP&L is creating the nation's largest high-level waste site at Shearon Harris in Wake County, NC, increasing both the chance that it could be targeted, and the potential loss of life if attacked,

**Whereas** an attack on Shearon Harris could result in a radiation release over ten times greater than the 1986 Chernobyl accident, could kill thousands of people, and render North Carolina uninhabitable for centuries,

**Whereas** CP&L is the only U.S. utility transporting high-level nuclear waste between plants —to Shearon Harris, which creates slow-moving railway targets,

**Whereas** there are feasible measures to decrease the likelihood for attacks, including cessation of nuclear waste transports, and a halt to increasing the stockpile of nuclear waste at Shearon Harris,

**Whereas** there are feasible measures that could prevent or dramatically reduce the potential consequences in case of attacks, including use of dry storage of waste and lower density racking if cooling pools are used,

**Whereas** protection of public health is a responsibility that must be shared by CP&L, local, state, and federal government officials, and the public,

**Therefore Be It Resolved That:** We support the minimization of risks associated with terrorist attacks at Shearon Harris and all regional nuclear plants to the fullest extent possible. We support measures that will decrease the attractiveness of these potential targets, decrease the potential loss of life if an attack should occur, and we support the upgrading of evacuation and emergency response planning and resources.

- The Orange-Chatham Group, Sierra Club

## OCG Meetings & News

**Thursday, February 14th, 7:30 PM in the Church of Reconciliation** Join local author Dave Cook for presentation on his book "A Piedmont Almanac" The almanac is a delightful adventure into the natural world of the Piedmont, written by one of its most attentive students. Author Dave Cook will offer some readings from his book, and some musing about his career in environmental education.

**Thursday, February 7th, 7:30 pm ExCom meeting.** At the Oriental Garden Restaurant on Rosemary Street. Submit agenda items to Robert Porter at [robertporter@mindspring.com](mailto:robertporter@mindspring.com) or 933-7613.

**Update on the Chapel Hill Development Ordinance** The town appears to be heading toward a series of evening meetings to review the current draft and get citizen input. Keep your eye on the newspapers or contact the Planning Department (968-2728) for the schedule. The draft document continues to be available on the town web site (<http://www.ci.chapel-hill.nc.us/planning/development/ordinance.htm>).

**Update on Parking Lot #5** Sierra Club members are needed to attend the downtown planning events for Chapel Hill on Feb 16th and on Mar 23rd. This is the vehicle that the Town Council has envisioned as the guide future development downtown, including on Parking Lot #5. If you share the hope that Parking Lot #5 will include adequate public space around which an active cultural scene can develop than please attend this meeting. The exact time of the meeting has not been released so for more information please email Greg Gangi at [ggangi@mindspring.com](mailto:ggangi@mindspring.com) or call at 932-7340. See back page for related story.

**A Great Big Thank You** to all volunteers who helped sell the 2002 Calendars! A thank you to **A Southern Season** for allowing us to sell outside their store during the holiday season.

### 2001 OCG ExCom & Chairs

<b>Robert Porter</b> - Chair <a href="mailto:robertporter@mindspring.com">robertporter@mindspring.com</a>	933-7613 2000
<b>Vann Bennett</b> - Program <a href="mailto:benne012@mc.duke.edu">benne012@mc.duke.edu</a>	942-5862 2000
<b>Bill Bracey</b> <a href="mailto:arbornet@mindspring.com">arbornet@mindspring.com</a>	967-4116 2001
<b>Dan Coleman</b> - Political <a href="mailto:dan-coleman@nc.rr.com">dan-coleman@nc.rr.com</a>	2001
<b>Greg Gangi</b> - Outreach <a href="mailto:ggangi@mindspring.com">ggangi@mindspring.com</a>	932-7340 2001
<b>Annette Jurgelski</b> - Outings <a href="mailto:jurge001@mc.duke.edu">jurge001@mc.duke.edu</a>	644-0280 2000
<b>Gustavo Ocoró</b> - Conservation <a href="mailto:gusyanne@earthlink.net">gusyanne@earthlink.net</a>	918-7773 2001
<b>Peter Todd</b> - Media <a href="mailto:hartodd@mindspring.com">hartodd@mindspring.com</a>	942-2581 2000

## Executive Committee Candidates

**Vann Bennett** — Vann has been a member of the OCG Ex-Com for two years, and has been responsible for organizing programs. He has interests in habitat acquisition and preservation, promoting local farms, developing alternative energy sources, and promoting green building practices. He currently does research in cell biology.

**Annette Jurgelski** — Annette, a longtime Sierra Club member, is a former ExCom member and is Outing Chair for our group. She is also active in the Eno River Association and is on the Commission for the Environment for Orange County.

**Norman Miller** — Norman worked on environmental issues in both the legislative and executive branches of NJ state government for more than 25 years. He recently taught a wide range of environmental studies courses in colleges in Florida and in NC, and has written a textbook and companion casebook

on environmental politics.

**Robert Porter** — Robert has for a number of years worked on the political campaigns of numerous environmentalists. He is also interested in environmental history, a topic he has integrated into the various history courses he has taught at the college level. Robert has chaired the Orange-Chatham Group since late 2000. As chair, he has demonstrated an interest in numerous areas, including the effort to make Chapel Hill's Parking Lot # 5 into a town square.

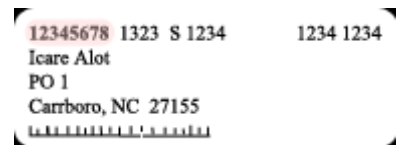
**Peter Todd** — Peter served on the OCG ExCom during 1988-1990 and was the OCG Newsletter Editor during that time. He worked several years with the Haw River Assembly on the Haw River Festival, an environmental education project for 4th graders. An avid organic gardener, he enjoys spending time with his wife and two kids.

### 2002 ExCom Ballot

Vote for not more than five candidates.

- Vann Bennett
- Annette Jurgelski
- Norman Miller
- Robert Porter
- Peter Todd
- \_\_\_\_\_

You must include your Sierra Club Membership Number from the top left corner of your mailing. See shaded area of example label shown at right.



Single: \_\_\_\_\_ Joint: \_\_\_\_\_

You may vote by mailing this ballot back to the address below, or save paper and vote on-line at [www.sierraclub-nc.org/ocg/Vote.html](http://www.sierraclub-nc.org/ocg/Vote.html).

OCG Sierra Club — ExCom Ballot  
PO Box 1303  
Chapel Hill, NC 27514

Ballots must be received by February 16th, 2002 to be counted.

**Parking Lot #5 Design Contest** The OCG Group would like to sponsor a design contest to stimulate innovative thinking about parking lot #5. We are trying to raise funds for a prize of between one and two thousand dollars. If you would like to contribute to this endeavor please send checks made out to the OCG Sierra Club and mail them to Greg Gangi at 1465 Smith Level Rd., Chapel Hill, NC 27516

Fayetteville Rd. We will meet at 9:00 a.m.; please bring water and work gloves. Contact Thad Howard (HWG) at 919-544-9126 or [thad.howard@duke.edu](mailto:thad.howard@duke.edu) for directions, a list of needed tools, and plans for this workday. There is work for all.

**FEB 23 (Sat) 10 a.m. explore around Lake Michie off Bahama Rd.** which is off Roxboro Rd. north of I-85. Moderate 6 miles. Contact Janet Burhans-Hitti (HWG) at 919-572-2407 or [jhitti0326@cs.com](mailto:jhitti0326@cs.com).

**MAR 8-10 Walnut Flats.** Late winter base camp (Fri, Sat) at Walnut Flats campground in the Jefferson Natl. Forest near Bland, VA. Moderate to strenuous approx. 11-mile day hike Saturday climbing to 4,000 ft. up Dismal Creek and along the AT. Remote trail experience is prettier than it sounds, with attractive Dismal Falls along the way. Maximum group size is 10, with a \$10 refundable deposit/person. Call Chris or Odile Gould (HWG) at 919-493-1194 between 8 and 9 p.m., or e-mail [chris\\_gould@mindspring.com](mailto:chris_gould@mindspring.com).

**Complete listings at [www.sierraclub-nc.org/ocg](http://www.sierraclub-nc.org/ocg).**

### Outings

**FEB 9 Sat 10 a.m. Breakfast** at Raleigh Farmer's Market followed by museum tour and IMAX Theatre. Please call BJ Stuhmer (CG) at 919-845-2087. **This is a Sierra Seniors Outing.**

**FEB 15-17 Avery Creek Base Camp.** Moderate winter day hikes in the Pisgah National Forest. Good introduction to winter camping. Call Dick Udry (OCG) at 919-929-1779 between 8 and 10 p.m. or e-mail [udry@unc.edu](mailto:udry@unc.edu).

**FEB 16 (Sat) American Tobacco Trail Service Outing.** Please join the Friends of the American Tobacco Trail for this service outing to open the ATT in Southern Durham County. Meeting location: where the ATT crosses Scott King Rd. to the east of

### Non Sierra Sponsored Hikes

**FEB Saturdays — Eno River.** The Eno River Association sponsors hikes in the Eno River State Park on Sunday afternoons during February. For information, call 620-9099.



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